

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 8-16 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended, claims 6 and 7 are cancelled, and the Title, specification and Fig. 4 are amended. Independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of objected-to claim 7 and intervening claim 6 into claim 1. Accordingly, no new matter is added by the above amendment.

The Office Action objected to the specification. The paragraph located on page 15 has been amended as requested in the Office Action. In addition, a paragraph extending from page 14 to page 15 also has been amended to correct a typographical informality therein. The Title also has been amended as requested in the Office Action. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is requested.

Fig. 4 was objected to, with the Office Action asserting that element "24" should be labeled as element "124." In the attached replacement drawing sheet, Fig. 4 has been amended to change "24" to "124." Fig. 4 relates to the second embodiment, in which the shield plate is labeled 124. Withdrawal of the drawing objection is requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 8-16, and the identification of allowable subject matter in dependent claim 7. As noted above, the features of claim 7 and intervening claim 6 have been incorporated into claim 1, thus placing claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-5 in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,496,285 to Fujimoto et al. In addition, claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fujimoto et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,847,938 to Gammon. These rejections are moot in view of the above amendments.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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MAC/ccs

Attachments:

Replacement Sheet (Fig. 4)
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: September 28, 2004

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